

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 /071 W
----- 087641 /71

R 220222Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7487
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2955

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM SPOP PINS LA
SUBJECT: WIVES OF FORMER VIENTIANE SIDE MILITARY TO JOIN THEIR
HUSBANDS IN RURAL AREAS

1. THE LAO "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" DECEMBER 21 PUBLISHED
AN ARTICLE EXPLAINING THE POLICY OF THE PARTY AND
GOVERNMENT TOWARD DEPENDENTS OF FORMER VIENTIANE SIDE
MILITARY OFFICERS NOW IN INTERNAL EXILE IN THE "OLD
LIBERATED AREAS".

2. THE ARTICLE REPORTED ON A MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
CONVENED MEETING OF ALL DEPENDENTS OF FORMER VIENTIANE
SIDE MILITARY OFFICERS FROM ONE OF THE DISTRICTS IN
VIENTIANE. AT THE MEETING, DEPENDENTS WERE TOLD
THAT THEY SHOULD "TAKE PART IN DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY"
AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GOVERNMENT
OFFERS TO "HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION", NOTING THAT
"CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDYING FROM SECONDARY LEVEL DOWN
TO PRIMARY SCHOOL MAY CONTINUE STUDY IN THE OLD
LIBERATED ZONES". THE ARTICLE REPORTED GOVERNMENT
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RECOMMENDATIONS THAT PROPERTY OF THE DEPENDENTS COULD
BE TURNED OVER TO RELATIVES OR SOLD TO THE GOVERNMENT
OR RENTED. THE ARTICLE ADDED THAT "OTHER DISTRICTS
ARE DOING THE SAME THING."

3. A LAO LOCAL EMPLOYEE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS SISTER-

IN-LAW WAS AMONG APPROXIMATELY 100 FAMILIES OF FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED TO JOIN THEIR HUSBANDS AND FATHERS FOUR MONTHS AGO, BUT WHO WERE STILL AWAITING TRANSPORT TO VIENGSAI. HE SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY 35 FAMILIES HAD ALREADY LEFT VIENTIANE.

4. VARIOUS LOCAL LAO SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD IN RECENT SEMINARS THAT WIVES AND FAMILIES OF FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS WOULD BE RUSTICATED AS PART OF A GENERAL GOVERNMENT PLAN TO REDUCE SIGNIFICANTLY THE POPULATION OF VIENTIANE DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1977.

5. COMMENT: ALL THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE RESTICATIONS TO VIENGSAI IN 1975 WERE ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN AN INTERNAL POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION WHICH MAY ALSO INCLUDE SHIFTING THE URBAN LAO POPULATION SUCH AS IT WAS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND DISPERSING THE REMNANTS OF THE VIENTIANE BOURGEOISIE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, DEPENDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI02955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760469-0206
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761219/aaaaapya.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WIVES OF FORMER VIENTIANE SIDE MILITARY TO JOIN THEIR HUSBANDS IN RURAL AREAS
TAGS: SHUM, SPOP, PINS, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006